WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A method of operating an underground or inaccessible object, said object including a sonde arranged to emit signals having a plurality of non-orientation-dependent characteristics, said method comprising the steps of;

applying a predetermined rotation sequence involving at least one rotation step to said object;

detecting said rotation sequence;

wherein said detection of said rotation sequence causes said sonde to change from the emission of a first signal having a first non-orientation-dependent characteristic to the emission of a second signal having a second non-orientation-dependent characteristic.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first non-orientation-dependent characteristic and said second non-orientation-dependent characteristic of said signal are a first carrier frequency and a second carrier frequency respectively.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first non-orientation-dependent characteristic and said second non-orientation-dependent characteristic of said signal are a first data output sequence and a second data output sequence respectively.

4. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first non-orientation-dependent characteristic and said second non-orientation-dependent characteristic of said signal are a first data transfer rate and a second data transfer rate respectively.

5. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first non-orientation-dependent characteristic and said second non-orientation-dependent characteristic of said signal are a first output power and a second output power respectively.

6. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said rotation sequence comprises a plurality of rotation steps.

7. A method according to claim 6 wherein each rotation of said plurality of steps is completed within a predetermined time limit.

8. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said object is an underground boring tool.

9. Apparatus for operating an underground or inaccessible object, said apparatus including including;

a sonde for emitting a plurality of signals having predetermined non-orientation-dependent characteristics;

rotation means for applying a predetermined rotation sequence involving at least one rotation step to said object;

detection means for detecting said predetermined rotation sequence; and

response means activated by said detection of said predetermined rotation sequence for causing said sonde to change from the emission of a first signal having a first non-orientation-dependent characteristic to the emission of a second signal being a second non-orientation-dependent characteristic.

10. Apparatus according to claim 8 wherein said object is an underground boring tool and said detection means is a roll sensor.

11. A method of operating an underground or inaccessible object including a sonde, said object being connected to an operator triggered drive means

said method comprising the steps of;

signalling from said drive means to said sonde, said signalling including the operator triggering said operator triggered drive means to apply a predetermined rotation sequence involving at least one rotation step to

said object;

detecting said rotation sequence;

wherein said detection of said rotation sequence causes said sonde to change from a first operation function to a second operation function.

12. A method according claim 11 wherein said rotation sequence comprises a plurality of rotation steps.

13. A method according to claim 12 wherein each rotation of said plurality of steps is completed within a predetermined time limit.

14. Apparatus for operating an underground or inaccessible object including;

a sonde;

operator-triggered drive means connected to said object for applying a predetermined rotation sequence involving at least one rotation step to the object to signal to said object in response to a trigger from the operator;

detection means for detecting said rotation sequence; and

response means activated by the detection of said predetermined rotation sequence for causing said sonde to change from a first operation function to a second

operation function.